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NIXON HAD SURGERY to prevent a blood clot from moving to his lungs.

The former President's physicians in Long Beach, Calif., Memorial Hospital performed what they termed "urgent surgery" early yesterday after discovering a new clot in Nixon's left leg Monday night. They said it "threatened to become a pulmonary embolus, and thus endanger Mr. Nixon's life." A plastic clip that permits blood, but not large clots, to pass was permanently attached to a vein in Nixon's left thigh. He was under general anesthesia.

Afterward, doctors said Nixon was in stable condition and would remain in the hospital for about a week. It is hoped that the clots will eventually dissolve.

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